

Prairie Publications

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NDASFAA Update



Happy New Year friends and colleagues! I hope you had a wonderful holiday season and that you are “resolved” to work hard and have fun in another hectic year in financial aid in 2008. There are so many new challenges coming our way again. (Do any of you remember the anticipation and anxiety you felt waiting for the world to bring in the new millennium on January 1, 2000? Were you waiting for the “big computer crash” as I was and wondering whether you were prepared for it?)

Well, if you remember that, then you probably understand how I feel today as I assume the duties of President of NDASFAA in 2008. I hope I am prepared to lead NDASFAA into the next year and I want to thank each of you for allowing me the honor of serving in this capacity.

With this in mind, I ask that each of you consider offering your time and talents to serve on one of the various NDASFAA committees. Perhaps you have served as a committee member but have never served as chair or co-chair. Or, perhaps you have served on the same committee for several years and are open to change and new possibilities while serving on a different committee. You can find the NDASFAA committee lists and their members at the www.ndasfaa.org Web site under the Governance link. The description of each committee is listed in the policy and procedures. Please take the time to review this information and consider the leadership challenges and opportunities provided to serve in NDASFAA (as well as RNASFAA and NASFAA). Contact one of the Board members listed below to tell us which committee you would like to work on to share your talents.

I am pleased to introduce to you the 2008 NDASFAA Board:

Donna Seaboy, Sitting Bull College – President
Laurie Weber, Minot State University – President-Elect
Shirley Hanson, Mayville State University – Past President
Marge Michael, Jamestown College – Secretary
Brigit Sprenger, North Dakota State University – Treasurer
Jean Rock, Student Loan Finance Corporation – Assoc. Mem. at Large

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NDASFAA Update...continued from Page 1

We have a huge agenda before us in 2008! NDASFAA will be implementing the first annual College Goal North Dakota on February 10 in eight locations: Belcourt, Bismarck, Dickinson, Grand Forks, Minot, New Town, Fort Totten, and Fort Yates. I am sure each of you would like to participate in this premier event. You can access information about College Goal North Dakota at www.collegegoalnd.org. To volunteer, simply click on the volunteer button and complete the form. We need the volunteer form completed promptly so we can assure each site has all the necessary volunteers and to order t-shirts for the volunteers. NDASFAA received a three-year grant from Lumina Foundation for Education to implement College Goal Sunday (CGS) in North Dakota. Within this grant, funds have been allocated to assist volunteers with travel. Contact Katie Nettell or Laura Teigen for more information on CGS.

This past year as President-Elect, I have had the pleasure of working with Shirley Hanson and her committees and I have observed how critical it is to work together (and sometimes compromise) to accomplish the tasks set before us. One of the major accomplishments that occurred in November was the development of a new corporate support structure that will hopefully allow our association to continue to provide the same services to its members as it has in the past. Kudos to Shirley and the Executive Council for their hard work in developing this new structure of corporate support!

The 2007 Executive Council also selected three different styles of apparel that NDASFAA members can order with the NDASFAA logo. Thanks to Lance Hill for gathering information for the Council to consider. Information about the apparel and how to order will be sent out on the NDASFAA listserv.

Another accomplishment is the development of a new feature for the NDASFAA Web site: a link to Job Opportunities within the financial aid profession. Guidelines on posting jobs on the Web site will be sent out on the NDASFAA listserv also. Thanks to Lynn Haverlock for keeping the Web site up-to-date.

Mark your calendars to attend the 2008 NDASFAA Spring Conference as we will be "Blazing New Trails" in Bismarck on April 9–11. Contact Brenda Zastoupil and Jeff Jacobs for any ideas you may have for the conference. Department of Education will provide a one day training session on April 8.

Looking forward to serving and working with you in 2008...

Donna M. Seaboy, NDASFAA President

Personnel Changes at SLND

Kim Miller has resigned her position as supervisor for the New Loan area to pursue a career in Virginia.

We wish her well!

Common Review Initiative (CRI) Receives Permanent Approval

The Department of Education has given guaranty agencies approval to continue with the CRI process of conducting program reviews of lenders and servicers. Until this time, the CRI was a pilot project of guarantors. The Department has now made it permanent.

To receive this permanent status, guarantors are required to include a review of LaRS, inducements and consolidation rebate fees in addition to current requirements. Guarantors are currently working on developing tools to review these areas.

If you have any questions regarding CRI, please contact Char Feist at cfeist@nd.gov or 701-328-5753.

~ Char Feist, Compliance Officer - SLND-Guarantor

Bridges Unveils New Version of *Choices*

Bridges Transitions, a Xap Corporation company, has unveiled its latest version of *Choices*, the nation's most popular online college and career planning solution, available in over 13,000 schools, colleges and career agencies across North America.

Choices helps students create individualized learning plans through comprehensive and easy-to-use portfolio functionality, assessments and planning tools not found elsewhere. The latest version has a number of enhancements, including improved accountability through new Career Clusters integration, which makes it easier for educators to align their career planning curriculum.

There are three distinct *Choices* products built around a common portfolio that is transferable from middle school to high school, and beyond. *Choices Explorer* offers original education and career exploration content written at an age-appropriate middle school and high school level. *Choices Planner* provides high school students with comprehensive college and career planning resources. In addition, adult and postsecondary users have access to personalized career assistance tools through *Choices Planner* for career transitions.

In North Dakota, SLND provides this software to each of the high schools.

~ Based on a Bridges press release dated 11/29/2007

DEAL Interest Rates Change Effective January 1

Effective **January 1 through March 31, 2008**, the Dakota Education Alternative Loan (DEAL) interest rates will be as follows: **fixed** interest rate is **7.08%** and **variable** interest rate is **6.34%**. These rates also apply to the Medical DEAL loan.

The borrower or cosigner will be given a .25% interest rate reduction when utilizing the ACH payment method.



College Financial Aid Information Sessions

Attend a NDASFAA event and register to win a \$250 college scholarship.

Get ready for college by attending a session in January or February at a college near you. Parents and high school students are invited to find out the latest information on financial aid and the process of paying for college.

Saturday, January 5, 2008

Dickinson State University: One Session ~ 10:00 a.m. at Beck Auditorium in Klinefelter Hall
Minot State University: One Session ~ 10:00 a.m. at the Student Union Conference Center

Saturday, January 12, 2008

Williston State College: Two Sessions ~ 10:00 a.m. or 1:00 p.m. at Stevens Hall Room 216

Saturday, January 19, 2008

Lake Region State College, Devils Lake: Two Sessions ~ 10:00 a.m. or 1:00 p.m. in Chautauqua Gallery

Saturday, January 26, 2008

Sitting Bull College, Fort Yates: One Session ~ 1:00-5:00 p.m. Science and Technology Building, New Campus

College Goal SundaySM February 10, 2008 – Get expert assistance to complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). For more information visit www.collegegoalnd.org or call 866-454-3308.

Belcourt
1:00-3:00 p.m.
Turtle Mountain
Community College

Bismarck
1:00-3:00 p.m.
Bismarck High School

Dickinson
2:00-6:00 p.m.
Dickinson State University

Fort Totten
2:00-5:00 p.m.
Cankdeska Cikana
Community College

Fort Yates
1:00-3:00 p.m.
Sitting Bull College

Grand Forks
1:00-3:00 p.m.
University of North Dakota

Minot
1:00-3:00 p.m.
Minot State University

New Town
2:00-5:00 p.m.
Fort Berthold
Community College

**College Financial Aid Sessions and Scholarships are sponsored by the
North Dakota Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators (NDASFAA).**



If you have questions call Laura Teigen at College Information Service at 1-800-554-2717.

**Below is a list of sessions being held at high schools that may be near you.
Please contact the school for more information.**

DATE	LOCATION	TIME	NDASFAA PRESENTER
Monday, January 7	Rugby High School	7:00 PM	Jamie - SLND
Monday, January 7	Central Cass High School	7:00 PM	Laura - SLND
Monday, January 7	Jamestown High School	7:30 PM	Marge Michael - Jamestown College
Monday, January 7	Ashley High School	7:00 PM	Don Flaherty - Trinity Bible College
Monday, January 7	Century High School	7:00 PM	Jeff Jacobs - BSC
Tuesday, January 8	Hillsboro High School	7:00 PM	Laura - SLND
Wednesday, January 9	Underwood High School	7:00 PM	Jamie - SLND
Thursday, January 10	Dakota Prairie High School	2:00 PM	Katie Nettell - LRSC
Friday, January 11	Ellendale High School	7:00 PM	Don Flaherty - Trinity Bible College
Monday, January 14	Powers Lake High School	7:00 PM	Lance - SLND
Monday, January 14	Center High School	7:00 PM	Laura - SLND
Monday, January 14	LaMoure High School	5:00 PM	Don Flaherty - Trinity Bible College
Monday, January 14	Bismarck High School	5:30 PM	Jeff Jacobs - BSC
Wednesday, January 16	Drake-Anamoose-Goodrich High School	7:30 PM	Laura - SLND
Wednesday, January 16	Leeds High School	6:30 PM	Katie Nettell - LRSC
Tuesday, January 22	Harvey High School	7:00 PM	Katie Nettell - LRSC
Tuesday, January 22	Carrington High School	7:00 PM	Katie Nettell - LRSC
Tuesday, January 22	Devils Lake High School	7:00 PM	Katie Nettell - LRSC
Tuesday, January 22	Munich High School	7:00 PM	Katie Nettell - LRSC
Wednesday, January 23	Garrison High School	7:00 PM	Jamie - SLND
Friday, January 25	Lignite High School	6:00 PM	Lance - SLND
Sunday, January 27	Linton High School	2:00 PM	Laura - SLND
Monday, January 28	Enderlin High School	7:00 PM	Betty Schumacher - VCSU
Monday, January 28	Lakota High School	7:00 PM	Katie Nettell - LRSC
Monday, January 28	Cando High School	7:00 PM	Katie Nettell - LRSC
Monday, January 28	Devils Lake High School	7:00 PM	Katie Nettell - LRSC
Thursday, January, 31	Wishek High School	7:00 PM	Don Flaherty - Trinity Bible College
Thursday, January, 31	Wimbledon-Courtenay High School	7:00 PM	Laura - SLND
Monday, February 4	Lichville-Marion High School	7:00 PM	Laura - SLND
Tuesday, February 5	Maple Valley High School	7:00 PM	Laura - SLND
Thursday, February 7	St. Mary's High School	7:00 PM	Jeff Jacobs - BSC
Thursday, February 7	Harvey High School	7:00 PM	Katie Nettell - LRSC
Thursday, February 7	Lakota High School	7:00 PM	Katie Nettell - LRSC
Thursday, February 7	Devils Lake High School	7:00 PM	Katie Nettell - LRSC
Thursday, February 7	Maddock High School	7:00 PM	Katie Nettell - LRSC
Thursday, February 14	Turtle Lake High School	7:00 PM	Jamie - SLND

SLND-Guarantor
PO Box 5524
Bismarck ND 58506-5524
1-800-472-2166 ext. 5754
mystudentloanonline.nd.gov
slndga@nd.gov

Administered by
Bank of North Dakota
Overseen by
Industrial Commission of
North Dakota

GOVERNOR
John Hoeven

ATTORNEY GENERAL
Wayne Stenehjem

AGRICULTURE
COMMISSIONER
Roger Johnson

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Dakota-Guarantor is a
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*All articles are of the
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stated.*



2008 Upcoming Events

College Financial Aid Information Sessions

January 5-26
(See Pages 4-5)

Marketplace for Entrepreneurs

January 15-16

Alerus Center - Grand Forks

<http://www.marketplaceforentrepreneurs.org/>

February 10

ND College Goal Sunday

www.collegegoalnd.org

Ombudsman Office - FY 2007 Results

The Federal Student Aid Ombudsman Office recently released FY 2007 (10/1/2006 - 9/30/2007) case load results regarding customer concerns/issues. In total, 17,496 cases were received in FY 2007 which was up 3.57% over FY 2006.

The top five research case issues were:

- 1) Loan Consolidation
- 2) Loan Cancellation/Discharge
- 3) Account Balance
- 4) Repayment plans/amounts
- 5) Default

These issues accounted for approximately 70% of all cases. Loan reversals were the most common subcategory under Loan Consolidation; disability was the most common subcategory under Cancellation/Discharge.

(Based on an article in the November 2007 issue of Ombudsman News')